Only I can change my life. No one else can do it for me.
Carol Burnett, US actress & comedienne

2B Changing lives

1 GRAMMAR present perfect simple + *for* / *since*; present perfect continuous

a Write the words and phrases in the box in the correct column.

~~2005~~ ages a fortnight Christmas
six months I was little the last two days
Tuesday years and years you last called

for	since
	2005

b Complete the sentences with the present perfect simple form of the verb in brackets and *for* or *since*.

1 *I've had* my car *for* about a month. (have)
2 My mum _____ ill _____ last Friday. (be)
3 We _____ each other _____ we were at school. (know)
4 He _____ for the same company _____ five years. (work)
5 They _____ in Scotland _____ they got married. (live)
6 My parents _____ away _____ the weekend. (go)
7 I _____ to go to Australia _____ a long time. (want)
8 She _____ to me _____ last year. (not speak)

c Complete the dialogues with the present perfect continuous form of the verbs.



1 A Have you heard Heather's new band?
B No. *Have they been playing* together for a long time? (they / play)



2 A How long was your flight?
B Twelve hours. _____ all day. (we / travel)



3 A My brother has a very good job in New York.
B Really? How long _____ there? (he / work)



4 A Diana's found a new flat, at last.
B Oh good! _____ one for ages. (she / look for)



5 A Why does Liam's teacher want to see you?
B _____ his homework lately. (he / not do)



6 A You're late.
B Yes, I know. Sorry. _____ long? (you / wait)



7 A You look exhausted.
B _____ the children all day! (I / look after)

d Circle the correct form. If both forms are possible, tick (✓) the sentence.

1 How long *have you lived* / *have you been living* abroad? ✓
2 *I've studied* / *I've been studying* Chinese for two years.
3 Hannah *has had* / *has been having* the same boyfriend since she was at school.
4 How long *has Mark played* / *has Mark been playing* the bass guitar?
5 *He's worked* / *He's been working* in this school since he started teaching.
6 *I've known* / *I've been knowing* you for years.
7 *We've gone* / *We've been going* to the same dentist since we were children.
8 *You've worn* / *You've been wearing* that coat for years!

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